

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2007

The Honorable John P. Woodley
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Woodley:

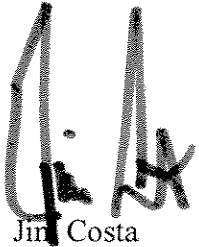
We are taking this opportunity to share our very deep concern about safety at Isabella Dam, given the significant seismic and seepage problems there. As U.S. Representatives whose districts encompass the Kern River Watershed, we are acutely aware of the current situation, which puts hundreds of thousands of our constituents at risk.

We are aware of your planned visit to Isabella Dam this week, and we appreciate your personal attention to this issue. In your preparation for the visit, we presume you will review the Corps' December 29, 2006, Lake Isabella Dam Situation Report. This report outlines the significant steps the Corps has yet to take in order to begin repairs; we urge you to review all options to streamline the study process. The Corps has identified the Lake Isabella situation as its number one dam safety concern, but reports indicate that actual remedial construction could require up to a minimum of five years once the planning process has been concluded. It is imperative that we discuss a more timely process to resolving this matter.

In addition to concerns about safety, we would like to highlight the economic hardship faced by entities that contract for water from Isabella Reservoir. The Corps lowered the volume of water in storage to reduce stress on the dam in April 2006. While this may have been done to address public safety concerns, this action caused millions of dollars worth of lost water, and will cause our constituents significant water management challenges for the foreseeable future.

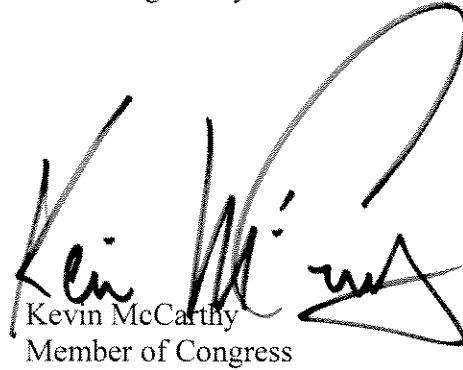
We realize that your agency has been working under substantial budget constraints in recent months, but we urge you to locate the necessary discretionary funds needed to complete the planning process and identify the scope of work necessary. We will work with you, and the appropriate House committees, to maximize available funding for this important dam safety project.

Again, we appreciate your personal attention to the situation by visiting Lake Isabella, and we wish the voting schedule in the House of Representatives would permit us to join you. After you visit Isabella Dam, we look forward to meeting with you to discuss the Corps' plans to address the problems at Isabella.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Costa". The signature is stylized with a large "J" and "C".

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin McCarthy". The signature is highly stylized with a large "K" and "M".

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

cc: Lt. General Carl Strock, Commander and Chief of Engineers